



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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July 3, 2003

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist 

RE: Site Inspection, Georgia-Pacific Corporation, Eagle Canyon Mine, M/015/050, Emery
Couty, Utah

Date of Inspection: May 30, 2003
Time of Inspection: 10:00-10:30 a.m.
Conditions: Mostly clear, 70's
Participants: Paul Baker (DOGM)

Purpose of Inspection:

I went to the site mainly because I was in the area, but I wanted to look for perimeter markers and signs on the soil and overburden stockpiles.

Observations:

I found perimeter markers showing the disturbed area, but there weren't quite as many as I had expected. Since the site is next to the road, it is possible some have been stolen since they were installed.

Signs have been placed next to the soil and overburden piles (Photos 1 and 3). This is very helpful for being able to differentiate between the two.

Toward the north end of the mine, there is a vegetated area that looks something like a test plot although I don't believe the plan mentions a test plot (Photos 2, 4, and 5). The soil surface in this area has a coarser texture than the regular topsoil, and it appeared to have a lot of coarse gypsum fragments. Some of the species growing in this area include Russian wild rye (which seems to be doing particularly well), Fremont pepperweed, Indian ricegrass, and Gardner saltbush.

In general, I noticed that there seems to be more vegetation in areas where there is more rock on the surface, whether or not the rock is gypsum.

In the north central portion of the disturbed area, there is a soil pile which, it appears, has been partly graded into one of the mine pits (Photo 4). This pile is marked as a soil pile.

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Conclusions and Recommendations:

The "test plot" has the best revegetation success of anything I have seen at this mine or other nearby mines. The Division and the operator need to look more closely at what revegetation methods were used in this area and particularly need to determine, as well as possible, what soil treatments were used.

The operator needs to protect the soil resources and not use soil as fill.

jb

cc: Russ Harms, Georgia-Pacific
Dean Nyffeler, Price BLM

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ATTACHMENT

Report Date: July 3, 2003; Inspection Date: May 30, 2003

Photographs

M/015/050, Eagle Canyon Mine, Georgia-Pacific Corporation



Photo 1. One of the topsoil piles.



Photo 2. A small revegetated area that looks something like a test plot.



Photo 3. One of the piles of fill/overburden.



Photo 4. Another view of the area that looks like a test plot. It appears the soil pile in the right center of this photo is being graded into one of the pits.



Photo 5. Another view of the "test plot."